

NEWS.

MR. F. J. SEAVER has been appointed professor of botany in Iowa Wesleyan College, at Mt. Pleasant, where he hopes to continue his study of Discomycetes.

DR. R. H. TRUE, in charge of drug-plant investigations for the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, is paying special attention to the culture of paprika peppers. The crop of the past season is reported as extremely satisfactory.

PROFESSORS MACBRIDE and SHIMEK, of the University of Iowa, spent part of last summer in the southwestern deserts, especially in the Salton basin. The University herbarium now contains a fairly complete representation of the flora of New Mexico and Arizona.

GEBRÜDER BORNTAEGER are proposing to reprint certain missing parts of the *Jahrbücher für wissenschaftliche Botanik* so as to offer complete sets of the first forty volumes, provided there are a sufficient number of subscribers at M 1250 for the set. We trust they will be encouraged to execute the project.

MR. L. H. DEWEY, in charge of fiber-plant investigations, U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, has recently distributed to agricultural colleges and other technical schools sets of the principal plant fibers used in the textile industries in this country. Until exhausted, these sets will be forwarded to schools and colleges where they will be of service in teaching economic botany or commercial geography.

THE DEPARTMENT of botany of Purdue University has this year added courses in forestry, administered by Professor STANLEY COULTER, covering two years' work, and including instruction in timber physics under the direction of Professor W. K. HATT, in charge of timber tests for the U. S. Forest Service. With prerequisites covering Freshman and Sophomore work, the initial enrolment is thirteen. The University of Iowa is also extending its courses along forestry lines.

THE SYSTEMATIC botanical work of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry has recently been brought together and put in charge of Mr. F. V. COVILLE. Heretofore, considerable work of this character has been carried on in several offices of the Bureau, more especially in that of the Agrostologist, where systematic studies of grasses have been conducted for many years. The grass collections have also been placed under the charge of Mr. COVILLE, and Mr. A. S. HITCHCOCK, in general charge of systematic work on grasses, has been assigned to the office of the Botanist for the continuance of this work.

AT THE University of Nebraska changes have been made which provide better accommodations for the herbarium (now containing about 100,000 specimens) and the botanical library. The plant houses, hitherto shared with the department of horticulture, are to be under the full control of the department of botany. A new botanical laboratory has been fitted up in connection with the School of Agriculture and the Experiment Station, in the recently completed Agricultural Hall on the University Farm. While part of the general department

ment, this laboratory is specifically in the charge of Dr. F. D. HEALD. Dr. F. E. CLEMENTS is to give courses in ecology as part of the larger division of plant physiology of which he was recently appointed associate professor.

FROM THE *Journal* of the New York Botanical Garden we learn that Dr. and Mrs. N. L. BRITTON, accompanied by Mr. STEWARDSON BROWN, curator of botany in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, spent three weeks in Bermuda in September, bringing back a large collection of plants, live and dried, in all about 3,000 specimens.

DR. P. A. RYDBERG spent two months last summer in collecting about Salt Lake City, Marysvale, and Nephi, Utah.

MR. GEORGE V. NASH has recently returned from an exploring expedition in the interior of Hayti, reaching some regions hitherto unvisited by any botanist and bringing back large quantities of live plants, seeds, and preserved material.

DR. FORREST SHREVE is spending the winter at the tropical laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden, Cinchona, Jamaica, having been appointed a laboratory assistant of the Garden and Bruce Fellow of Johns Hopkins University.

THE FOLLOWING movements among the staff of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry have been reported at our request:

DR. W. O. RICHTMANN has returned from a trip to California, undertaken in the interests of camphor and poppy investigations.

MR. W. F. WIGHT has just returned from Europe, where he spent four months in studying type specimens of plants in various herbaria.

MR. F. H. HILLMAN recently visited the Pacific coast in order to study the species of dodder which are so troublesome in alfalfa and clover fields.

MR. G. FRED KLUGH spent several months in Idaho and Nevada studying the relation of poisonous plants to the sheep trouble known as "bighead."

MR. S. C. HOOD, who has been in charge of the Vermont station for drug-plant investigations, at Burlington, has returned to Washington for the winter.

PROFESSOR H. PITTIER is about to start on an exploring trip of four or five months' duration in western Columbia, with a special view to a study of the cottons of that region.

MR. T. B. YOUNG has returned to Washington after a season's work at Ebenezer, S. C., where he has been in charge of the drug-plant farm, in cooperation with Mr. J. W. KING.

MR. EDGAR BROWN recently returned from an inspection of the more important seed laboratories of England, France, Netherlands, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Switzerland.

MR. W. W. STOCKBERGER recently made a trip through the hop-producing sections of the Pacific coast and the state of New York, where the conditions of brewing and of curing hops have been studied.

DR. J. W. T. DUVEL is spending some time in Ohio and Illinois investigating the curing of seed corn. It has been found that by proper treatment seed corn of high vitality can be assured at planting time.